

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 195925

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, US, IT

SUBJECT: SCOWCROFT LETTER ON PUERTO RICO SUMMIT

1. THERE FOLLOW BELOW, AS EMBASSY REQUESTED, THE TEXTS OF THE HARRINGTON RESOLUTION, H. RES. 1427, OF JULY 27, 1976, AND THE SCOWCROFT LETTER OF AUGUST 3 TO HIRC CHAIRMAN MORGAN COMMENTING UPON IT. PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE SCOWCROFT LETTER APPEARED ALMOST VERBATIM IN THE WASHINGTON POST OF AUGUST 5. YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT THE COMMITTEE, IN VOTING TO TABLE, HAS PRECLUDED ANY IMMEDIATE ACTION ON THE HARRINGTON PRIVILEGED RESOLUTION, BUT HAS NOT FORECLOSED THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE COMMITTEE WILL RAISE THE ISSUE AGAIN IN THE NORMAL COURSE OF BUSINESS.

2. TEXT OF H. RES. 1427: QUOTE: RESOLVED, THAT NOT LATER THAN TEN DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION, THE PRESIDENT SHALL FURNISH TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IF SUCH INFORMATION IS KNOWN BY HIM OR WITHIN HIS POSSESSION:

(1) WITHIN ONE YEAR PRECEDING THE DATE ON WHICH INFORMATION IS FURNISHED PURSUANT TO THIS RESOLUTION, HAS
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ANY PERSON (INCLUDING ANY CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE, MEMBER OF THE

ARMED FORCES, OR PERSON UNDER CONTRACT) ACTING UNDER THE

DIRECTION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OR ANY AGENCY OR
OTHER INSTRUMENTALITY OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PAID
OR OFFERED TO PAY ANY FUNDS, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY --

(A) TO THE ITALIAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY, TO ANY
OTHER POLITICAL PARTY IN ITALY, TO ANY MEMBER OF ANY SUCH
PARTIES, TO ANY AFFILIATE OF ANY SUCH PARTIES, OR TO ANY
GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL OR ANY CANDIDATE FOR ANY LOCAL OR
NATIONAL POLITICAL OFFICE IN ITALY; OR

(B) TO ANY NEWSPAPER, RADIO, TELEVISION, ADVERTISING, OR
OTHER COMPANY ENGAGED IN ANY FORM OF PRINT MEDIA OR
TELECOMMUNICATIONS (OR ANY EMPLOYEE OR AGENT THEREOF)
WHICH DISTRIBUTES OR BROADCASTS TO ANY PART OF ITALY?

IF SO, FOR EACH SUCH INSTANCE, FURNISH THE FOLLOWING
INFORMATION: THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS INVOLVED; THE DATE ON
WHICH PAYMENT OF SUCH FUNDS WAS OFFERED AND, IF SUCH FUNDS
WERE PAID, THE DATE ON WHICH SUCH PAYMENT WAS MADE; THE
RECIPIENT OF SUCH PAYMENT; AND THE INSTRUMENTALITY OF THE
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCH PAYMENT.

(2) DID ANY INDIVIDUALS (A) ASSIGNED OR OTHERWISE
ATTACHED TO ANY UNITED STATES EMBASSY OR OTHER DIPLOMATIC
MISSION, OR (B) EMPLOYED BY ANY UNITED STATES OR MULTI-
NATIONAL CORPORATION, PARTICIPATE IN ANY WAY IN ANY
PAYMENT OR OFFER DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS
RESOLUTION? IN ADDITION, WERE ANY FUNDS WHICH WERE
INVOLVED IN ANY SUCH PAYMENT ILLEGALLY EXCHANGED FOR
FOREIGN CURRENCY EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER ANY PAYMENT OF
SUCH FUNDS?

(3) WHAT FACTS MADE EXPEDIENT THE DECISION OF THE
UNITED STATES TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE, WEST
GERMANY, AND GREAT BRITAIN IN REFUSING TO LOAN MONEY TO
ITALY IF ANY COMMUNIST IS ADMITTED TO THE CABINET OF THE
ITALIAN GOVERNMENT? UNQUOTE.

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3. TEXT OF SCOWCROFT LETTER: QUOTE: DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN:
THIS LETTER IS IN RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUEST FOR COMMENTS
ON H. RES. 1427.

PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 2 OF H. RES. 1427 ARE SIMILAR TO AN
EARLIER RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY (H. RES. 1295) INTRODUCED BY
CONGRESSMAN HARRINGTON ON THE SAME SUBJECT. AS YOU KNOW,
WE COMMENTED ON THIS EARLIER RESOLUTION BY MY LETTER TO

YOU OF JUNE 16, 1976. THE VIEWS EXPRESSED AT THAT TIME ARE APPLICABLE TO THE CURRENT RESOLUTION, AND I ENCLOSE A COPY OF MY PREVIOUS LETTER FOR YOUR REFERENCE.

WITH REGARD TO PARAGRAPH 3 OF H. RES. 1427, CONTRARY TO THE IMPRESSION CONVEYED IN SOME PRESS REPORTS, THERE WAS NO AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO BY THE UNITED STATES WITH FRANCE, WEST GERMANY, AND GREAT BRITAIN, OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY ON THE QUESTION OF ASSISTANCE TO ITALY IF THE COMMUNISTS ENTERED THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, ALTHOUGH THE GENERAL ISSUE WAS DISCUSSED AT THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT MEETING IN PUERTO RICO IN JUNE. ACCORDINGLY, A PRIVILEGED RESOLUTION ON THIS SUBJECT APPEARS UNNECESSARY.

BASED ON THE ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS, IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT APPROVAL OF H. RES. 1427 BY THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WOULD SERVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE AND WOULD BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE PUBLIC INTEREST. UNQUOTE.

4. FYI, THE EARLIER RESOLUTION (H. RES. 1295 OF JUNE 11, 1976) MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH 3 ABOVE WAS SUBSTANTIALLY IDENTICAL TO PARAS ONE AND TWO OF H. RES. 1427, EXCEPT THAT IT CALLED FOR INFORMATION OVER A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD. IN TABLING THE EARLIER RESOLUTION, THE HIRC ACCEPTED GENERAL SCOWCROFT'S ARGUMENT THAT THE RESOLUTION WAS TECHNICALLY DEFECTIVE, SINCE IT SOUGHT TO USE A RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY TO REQUEST INFORMATION OF A NATIONAL SECURITY NATURE WHICH SHOULD PROPERLY BE THE SUBJECT OF INVESTIGATION OR HEARINGS BY THE COMMITTEE.

5. RESOLUTION, OF COURSE, IS PUBLIC DOCUMENT. A COPY OF SCOWCROFT'S LETTER HAS BEEN INFORMALLY GIVEN TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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ITALIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY WILL TREAT IT AS IF IT WERE CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL. ALTHOUGH SCOWCROFT LETTER HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PRESS, EMBASSY ROME SHOULD ALSO TREAT IT AS THOUGH IT WERE CONFIDENTIAL. HABIB

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